REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry B. Shubin, Reg. No. 32,004

Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.

Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1

2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400

Arlington, VA 22201

Direct Dial: 703-812-5306 Facsimile: 703-243-6410 Email: shubin@mwzb.com

FILED: 8 JUNE 2001

AJZ(HBS):jmm

09/857602 Rec'd PCT/PTO 0 8 JUN 2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Process according to Claims 1-and 2, characterized in that the reaction is carried out under reduced pressure, atmospheric pressure or superatmospheric pressure in the presence of atmospheric oxygen or, if desired, under a protective-gas atmosphere.